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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kingston et al.  
Assignee: Metara, Inc.  
Title: Method And Apparatus For Automated In-Process, Isotope Dilution  
Threshold And Quantification Measurement Mass Spectrometry  
Serial No.: 10/004,627 Filing Date: December 4, 2001  
Examiner: Hughes Group Art Unit: 2881  
Docket No.: M-15307 US

Irvine, California  
July 8, 2005

Mail Stop  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56**

Sir:

It is requested that the information identified in this statement be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

*Enclosed with this statement are the following:*

- X Form PTO-1449 (*Substitute*). The Examiner is requested to initial the form and return it to the undersigned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.
- X A copy of each cited document as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (*except where otherwise indicated for a specific citation*).

Complete copies are not submitted of U.S. applications per 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), and copies are not submitted of documents already cited or submitted in a parent application from which benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 is claimed per 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d). If any of the cited/submitted documents is in a foreign language, a concise explanation of relevancy is provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3). For foreign language documents cited in a search report by a foreign patent office, the requirement

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for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submission herewith of an English language version of the search report. 57 F.R. 2021 (1/17/92). If a written English-language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in §1.56(c), a copy of the translation accompanies this statement. 37 C.F.R. §1.98(c).

*This statement should be considered because:*

☐ This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:

- (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date;  
-- OR --
- (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage;  
-- OR --
- (3) It is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action *on the merits*,  
-- OR --
- (4) It is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office action *after the filing of an RCE*

whichever occurs last.

**X** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (c) because:

- (1) It is being filed before the mailing date of a FINAL Office Action and before a Notice of Allowance or another action closing prosecution (whichever occurs first)

-- AND (check at least one of the following) --

- X** (1) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p)  
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is accompanied by a CERTIFICATION as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)

☐ Although it may not qualify under subsection (b) or (c), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (d) because:

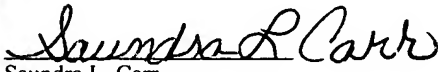
- (1) It is accompanied by a CERTIFICATION as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e);

-- AND --


- (2) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT TO ACCEPT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d);  
-- AND --
- (3) It is accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);  
-- AND --
- (4) The Issue Fee has not been paid prior to the submission.

**X Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the filing fee or any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. **50-2257**. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Sandra L. Carr  
Dated: July 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jonathan W. Hallman  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 42,622

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

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*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of
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Application Number	10/004,627
Filing Date	December 4, 2001
First Named Inventor	Kingston et al.
Art Unit	2881
Examiner Name	Hughes
Attorney Docket Number	M-15307 US

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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10/004.627

December 4, 2001

Kingston et al.

2881

**J.P. Hughes**

M-15307 US

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A

"Developments in the Electrospray Mass Spectrometry of Inorganic Species", G. Horlick Stewart, 1996 Elsevier Science B.V.

**B**

Corresponding European Examination Report dated May 2, 2005.

Examiner  
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